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Salaries

1. An ordinary worker makes about 200 rubles a month. A Stakhanovite, by using his energy to the utmost and with overtime, makes up to 400 rubles a month. A mechanic working in a raion town makes about 300 to 350 rubles; a good book-keeper or manager of a cooperative, about 600 rubles. Russians working in Russian establishments receive twice as large salaries. For example, a raion official (Russian) may receive over 1,000 rubles a month; a deputy to the raion Communist Party Secretary may receive over 1,500 rubles. However, in the realm of salaries, MGB personnel lead all other categories. An MGB colonel receives 6,000 rubles a month; an MGB captain, 4,000 rubles. It is said that the Russians, and particularly MGB members, are paid these high salaries to make them less susceptible to bribery.
2. Workers in artels (workmen's associations), who during the days of Lithuanian independence had their own shops, must work eight hours a day, using their own machines. If there is no work during these eight hours, they cannot go out or work on private orders. However, they are free to spend their time playing cards. A tailor working in an artel can do private work after working hours, but only with a permit and only after purchasing a patent from the Finance Ministry at very great expense. In order to combat illegal work in homes, the Finance Ministry has organized special intelligence cadres which, from time to time, check on tailors, knitters, and shoemakers working in artels to see if they are cheating the government at night. If anyone is caught, he has to pay not only the price of a patent but also a fine of 10,000 to 15,000 rubles. If he cannot pay the fine, he is sentenced to from one to two years in prison to work it out.

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3. Photography is regarded as the best profession, as photographers have not been herded into artels. Like private people, however, they cannot employ manpower and must hand over the developing of negatives to the Developers' Artel. Despite the fact that a photographic patent costs 30,000 rubles, photographers do make some profit and do not live too badly. In Kaunas there are three photographers: one across the street from the State Theater (Valstybes Teatras) and two on Parliament (Seimas) Street. In the oblast towns and particularly in the present raion cities, photographers are having a difficult time in obtaining photographic supplies like film and paper. Up to now, films used were the German Agfa films. Kaunas and Vilnius photographers very often buy the necessary materials by speculative means from Air Force personnel. The shortage of film might be attributed to the inefficient management of the Apkom, Cooperative Supply Organization (Kooperatyvu Aprupinimo Organizacija), which has branches in every raion city.

Prices (Up to spring 1951)

4. One kilogram of butter at government price costs 40 rubles; at non-government price, over 40 rubles. In winter, stores have no butter. In summer, the price falls to 24 rubles.
5. Bread of the following kinds can be bought in Kaunas, Siauliai, Klaipeda, and Vilnius at the given prices:

|   | <u>Rubles</u> |
|---|---------------|
| Half-white bread which is called white, per kg    | 2.10          |
| Somewhat whiter bread, in loaves                  | 3.60          |
| Wheat bread, per kg                               | 5.50          |
| Wheat bread (Jewish type), per kg                 | 4.50          |
| Wheat bread (Jewish type, in open market), per kg | 6.50          |

6. One kilogram of pork costs from 18 to 22 rubles. Lean meat with bacon (sic) around Christmas time, after the general butchering, costs from 24 to 28 rubles. In spring this price goes up to 40 rubles. One kilogram of ground beef costs 10 to 14 rubles. When prices were lowered, the price of this beef was 13 rubles. The lowering of prices in general proceeds as follows: if it is foreseen that prices will be lowered in May, then in February, as a result of quiet prearrangement, prices become gradually higher and higher until ultimately, when prices are lowered, the new price is higher than the original price. For instance, in February 1951, one kilogram of beef cost 12 rubles. By April the price went up to 15 rubles. On May 1 when prices were lowered, a kilogram of beef was fixed at 13 rubles. The conclusion is that in the USSR, when prices are decreased, they are in fact increased. Other meat prices include:

|  | <u>Rubles</u> |
|--|---------------|
| Sausage, per kg  | 20-22         |
| Sausage with bacon (sic), per kg                                     | 28            |
| Smoked sausage with pork, per kg                                     | 30-50         |
| Smoked bacon, per kg   | 30-40         |
| Liver sausage (produced by the Maistas Meat Plant in Kaunas), per kg | 21            |

There are cheaper types of sausage, but they are inedible.

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7. For 1 centner of rye, the farmer receives 5 rubles from the State. If one buys the same centner of rye on the open market, the price is 140 to 150 rubles. In spring this price is up to 200 to 250 rubles. Other grain prices include:

|                                | <u>Rubles</u> |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Wheat, per centner             | 170-180       |
| Wheat (in spring), per centner | up to 300     |
| Barley, per centner            | 80            |
| Oats, per centner              | 60            |

8. Prices of other food items include:

|  | <u>Rubles</u> |
|--|---------------|
| Milk (during summer in Kaunas), per liter          | 2-3           |
| Milk (in winter from a farmer), per liter          | 3             |
| Milk (in summer at government store),<br>per liter | 2             |
| (Unavailable in government stores in winter)       |               |
| Eggs (in summer), 10                               | 10            |
| Eggs (in winter), 10                               | 16-18         |
| Sugar, per kg                                      | 12            |
| Sugar (on the black market), per kg                | 24            |

There is no granulated sugar anywhere and no sugar at all in oblast towns. It is seldom available even in Kaunas; and, when it is available there, it is in lumps and not at all sweet.

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Chocolate (small), per bar    | 18 |
| Cocoa, per 100 gr             | 18 |
| Tea (of tea stems), per 25 gr | 8  |
| Tea (real tea), per 25 gr     | 12 |
| Coffee, per kg                | 72 |

The coffee is so old that it has no aroma.

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Potatoes (in fall), per centner                  | 20    |
| Potatoes (in winter), per centner                | 40-50 |
| Potatoes (at normal government price),<br>per kg | .90   |
| Potatoes (in winter on open market),<br>per kg   | 1.50  |
| Potatoes (in spring on open market),<br>per kg   | 2     |

Potatoes are brought in from collective farms and are quite rotten.

9. Tobacco prices include:

|   | <u>Rubles</u> |
|---|---------------|
| Cigarettes (Jachta, Pamy, Parashyut, Kino),<br>per pack (20 cigarettes) | .60           |
| Cigarettes (Avrova, Dukat), 10 cigarettes                               | .80           |
| Cigarettes (Drug) (head of dog on wrapper),<br>25 cigarettes            | 4.80          |
| Cigarettes (Zefyr), 10 cigarettes                                       | 1.5h          |
| Cigarettes (Taiga), 10 cigarettes                                       | .60           |
| Cigarettes (Prima), 10 cigarettes                                       | .80           |
| Smoking tobacco (Dumas) (Lithuanian), per 50 gr                         | 1.60          |
| Smoking tobacco (Russian), per 50 gr                                    | 10            |

There is no cigarette paper for rolling cigarettes. In the spring of 1951 some was brought in and only 50 leaves were sold per person, but it was so porous that the air went right through the paper and the cigarettes would not burn.

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10. There are no electric light bulbs in the stores. They must be purchased on the black market. Companies get them through their supply departments. The price of a 40-candlepower lamp on the black market is 40 rubles; it burns normally. Kitchen knives are very expensive, from 10 to 20 rubles, but there are few of them available. Forks and spoons are made of aluminum. A very poor razor for shaving costs 15 rubles and ten blades (Neva brand, of German origin) cost 4 rubles. Clothing material is very poor. In the raion towns a so-called wool material is sold which costs up to 300 rubles a meter. A wool suit costs from 1,000 to 2,000 rubles. In Kaunas, the making of a suit costs 400 rubles.
11. There is no coal. Even the blacksmiths run short. On the black market, 1 centner of coal costs 15 rubles. Last winter (1950-1951), government officials were supplied with brickettes which cost from 5 to 8 rubles a centner. In every city there is a fuel office where the inhabitants buy their fuel. In Kaunas, one cubic meter of wood costs 50 rubles. If someone is successful in buying wood surreptitiously, he pays up to 150 rubles for it.
12. When a raion Apkom orders merchandise, such as summer dresses, in the spring, the order arrives in winter, and furs arrive in midsummer. There is a great shortage of glass, which is brought in from supply bases in Vilnius to hardware stores about once every four months. Fish fat and turpentine are unavailable in the pharmacies, and these items cannot be purchased even on the black market.
13. Gasoline prices are of two kinds. The official price, which is paid when travelling on government business, is .60 rubles per liter. The commercial price, which is paid when buying at government fuel bases, is from 2 to 3 rubles per liter. One liter of kerosene at the government price is 1.60 rubles. An ordinary candle costs 2 rubles.

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